



J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766  
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

April 14, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – FOUNDATION  
FOR THE JUNIOR BLIND, CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM  
GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Children's Residential Program Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Foundation for the Junior Blind. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Children's Residential Program Group Home is a 40-bed facility, which provides care for boys and girls ages 6-17 years who are multi-disabled, including blind, visually impaired, developmentally disabled, mentally challenged, and ambulatory or non-ambulatory. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Children's Residential Program Group Home was providing services for 11 Los Angeles County DCFS children and 27 private placement children serviced by regional center. The Children's Residential Program Group Home is located in the Second District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews of the children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews of the residents were designed to obtain a perspective on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

**Summary of Findings**

The Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

**Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Acting Chief Probation Officer  
Robert B. Ralls, Executive Director, Foundation for the Junior Blind  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Foundation for the Junior Blind  
Children's Residential Program Group Home  
5300 Angeles Vista Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90043  
Phone: (323) 295-4555  
License No.: 191800260  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Note:** Foundation for the Junior Blind, residential living program serves children and youth ages 6 – 17 years, with visual impairments and multiple disabilities. At the time of the review, the residents were nonverbal and unable to participate in the interview process. However, two files were reviewed and information was documented based on observations of the residents.

**Comments:**

Children's Residential Program Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a large facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There is a TV and a VCR. There is a variety of resource materials.

The residential floors have a kitchenette that is utilized for storing and preparing snacks. The food is properly stored and dated. There is a professional on-grounds kitchen staffed with a professional cook and assistants. There is sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

#### **Sample size for review of documents: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was appropriate documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular therapeutic intervention.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

#### **Sample size for review of documents: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Residents are attending school. There are current Individualized Educational Plans for the residents who require Special Education services. The records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. The Group Home is supportive of their academic and developmental progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' personal hygiene and daily living skills.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation programs as appropriate.

Residents do not work.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and observation of residents.**

**Sample size for review of documents: Two**

### **Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents sufficient opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The schedule of recreational activities is followed.

The Agency utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. Residents are provided with structured activities and constant supervision due to their level of developmental functioning and physical disabilities. Residents are also encouraged to participate in activities they enjoy. Flexibility is provided when a resident cannot and/or refuses to participate in a recreational activity.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for seven case files**

### **Comments:**

The residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment – Resident observation**

**Sample size for resident observation: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Residents appear to be satisfied with the Agency and its staff. Residents' authorized representatives are provided with the Agency's policies and procedures. Residents appear to feel safe in the Group Home and there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents seem satisfied with the taste of the food. Residents and staff appear to have quality interactions. Staff is required to assist the residents with their daily living functions. There is sufficient staff supervision.

Residents' chores are minimal and coincide with the development of personal hygiene and daily living skill goals. Authorized representatives and approved family members are permitted contact with the residents. Contact includes telephone calls and visits which are permitted with sufficient frequency and privacy. The Agency is respectful of the residents' cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows residents to celebrate holidays.

There are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents may refuse medication.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident observation**

**Sample size for resident observation: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Agency supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing

allowance and residents appear to have clothing of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo/albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**